

**FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING/MAY 27, 2026**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held both in person and by video conference on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. The meeting was recorded in accordance with law.

Board Members Present:

Ms. Darnett Davis, President called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with the following members present by roll call: Mr. James Johnson, Ms. Esther Waldman, Vice President, Ms. Oluwasey Banjo, Ms. Joan Soskin, Ms. Yehudis Gottesfeld (arrived at 6:33 p.m. after Ms. Davis called the meeting to order), and Mr. Yossi Rubinstein (zoom) .

Board Members Excused: None

Board Members not excused: None

Administrative Personnel:

Ms. Laura Wolven, Library Director, Ms. Beth Zambito, Assistant Director, Mr. Andrew Koblick, Business Manager, Ms. Leah Levine, Library Clerk.

Others Present in person:

Grace Riario (Executive Director of the Ramapo Catskill Library System), John Ninivaggi, staff.

Others Present via zoom:

Stephanie Cole Adams (Library Attorney), Kathleen Preston (staff), Rafael Mirabal (staff), Arelene, Juliana Anderson (staff), Laurie Needell (staff), Parveen Rahmet (staff), Judy Joseph (staff), Susanne Daley (Union President), Jeff Liz (staff), Dipa Thakkar (staff), Robert Rowe (staff), Nathalie Jean Paul (staff), Michelle Gutierrez (staff), Dan Amerouso (staff), Orion Morgain (staff), Paul Gubernick (staff), Cliverltz Alexis (patron).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to **approve the modifications of the agenda to add executive session towards the end of the meeting, noting the Director's Report and President's Report be added to the agenda, and to address actions from committee reports from April and May.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to **approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing of April 29, 2026.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to **request Leah Levine, Clerk to the Board of Trustees to take the minutes of the May 27, 2026 meeting.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Soskin and carried unanimously to **have the Library Attorney, Stephanie Cole Adams and Grace Riario, Director of RCLS speak freely during the meeting if there are any items that are not clear, and can be corrected.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman , seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to **approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 29, 2026 with the recommended changes.**

Clarification on the motion regarding the Library Clerk taking minutes was discussed.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Davis and carried unanimously to **approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 12, 2026, with the amendment of Ms. Waldman's recusal recorded.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to **approve the Minutes of the Second Special Meeting of May 12, 2026 with the correction of the spelling of Mr. Rubinstein's name.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to **approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 13, 2026.**

Questions regarding the Library Budget Vote procedures were discussed

Questions regarding Legal Fees subtotaling to \$20,075.00 from Library Attorney, Whitman Osterman & Hannah LLP were discussed. Ms. Waldman recused herself during this discussion.

Conflict of interest was discussed.

A motion was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried with 6 votes yes to have Ms. Gottesfeld, Mr. Rubinstein and Ms. Banjo look into the Whiteman, Osterman and Hannah legal bill and report back to the board before the next meeting. Ms. Waldman recused herself from this vote.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to **approve the bill list for May 27, 2026 without the legal bill from Whitman Osterman & Hannah LLP.**

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the miscellaneous bill list of May 27, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Ms. Davis and carried unanimously to approve the transfer of \$1 Million from NYCLASS (New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System) to the M&T General Fund, contingent upon needs before the next board meeting.

The Library budget was mentioned, and will be discussed further during the Finance Committee Meeting held at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, May 29, 2026.

Internal controls and fiscal policies were discussed.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously for the director and or one of her employees to look into the January 2, 2026 payroll journal and come back to the board with answer on overtime before the next board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to **approve the payroll journals for January 16, 2026, January 30, 2026, February 13, 2026, February 27, 2026, March 13, 2026, May 8, 2026, and May 22, 2026.**

Budget transfers were discussed.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to retract Ms. Waldman's original motion, and to make a motion for the attorney to send the finance committee the template that was referenced, (policy from the comptroller), so that the finance committee can review it, and then bring recommendations to the board at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the Financial Statement for March 2026.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Glick submitted his report to Ms. Davis. There were concerns on the report regarding reconciliation and access were addressed.

A motion was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Ms. Waldman and carried unanimously to give the Treasurer access to the credit card accounts.

Library Statistical Report: The April 2026 report was presented.

Union Report:

Ms. Daley asked if there was a special meeting date scheduled for after the Finance Committee meeting for Friday, May 29, 2026 to approve whatever is discussed in regards to changes with staff, hours, or any changes made. Ms. Waldman responded commenting on seeing how the finance committee meeting goes before a decision is made.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to for Mr. Koblick to destroy the approved check for M&T bank, and pay the bill online for 5/28/2026 to avoid incurring late fees and interest, and to make payments online moving forward.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence Received: None.

Library Director's Report: Report was presented.

A revote on the Library Budget was discussed.

Limitations in the procurement policy was discussed.

A motion was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Ms. Waldman and carried unanimously to allow the Library Director to give 24-hour notice to inform the board via email, if something unexpected were to happen. Example: things like repair, or printing that is over the limit, but needs to be sent out.

Ms. Cole Adams commented on urgent procurements in order for the Director to make quick decisions.

Committee Report:

Budget and Finance: Esther Waldman, Vice President, Chair:

A motion was made by the Finance Committee, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously **to have the President, Director, and Clerk to the Board look into a program called diligent to find out what it does and to look into other programs that may be cheaper.**

A motion was made by the Finance Committee, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously **to approve the treasurer to reconcile all accounts separately.**

The fiscal controls template was discussed.

A motion was made by the Finance Committee to approve a letter to be sent to the Library Treasurer Mr. Glick regarding past approved overtime payment to him in the amount of \$18.75 to be applied to the next invoice submitted for the Library. Clarification is needed regarding payment.

A request was made for the Treasurer and Mr. Koblick to meet.

A request was made for the Director to gather all documents related to Sky packets.

Personnel: Darnett Davis, President, Chair: personnel items will be discussed during executive session.

Advocacy and Fundraising: Yehudis Gottesfeld, Chair: None.

By-Laws and Policy: Esther Waldman, Vice President, Chair:

A motion was made by the By-Laws and Policy Committee, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to **approve the Attorney Communication Resolution, with the addition of the Assistant Director, Head of Human Resources, to access the attorney for personnel matters within a budget limit of \$5,000. – See Resolution 1**

A motion was made by the By-Laws and Policy Committee, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to **approve eliminating remote work effective June 30, 2026. – See Resolution 2**

A motion was made by the By-Laws and Policy Committee, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to **approve the Gifts and Donation Policy.**

A motion was made by the By-Laws and Policy Committee, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to **approve the Security Camera Policy.**

A motion was made by the By-Laws and Policy Committee, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to **approve the ACH Policy draft.**

Procurement Policy was referred back to committee.

Personnel Policy Manual was referred back to committee.

Social Media Policy draft was referred back to committee. Recommended by Ms. Cole Adams. Ms. Cole Adams commented there are a couple of changes that are very critical.

New Business:

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Efrain Pinzon, Custodian I (PT), Buildings & Grounds Department, effective Monday, April 27, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to approve the 2025 Annual Report.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to approve the to discontinue 15 computers from RCLS support.

Budget Vote Procedures document was tabled.

A motion was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried 5 yes, 1 no to appoint Ms. Banjo as Secretary to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Waldman voted no, Mr. Rubinstein was not present via zoom during this vote.

Unfinished Business:

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Randy Peralta, Clerk-Typist (Substitute), IT Department, effective, Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Zionna Hosty, Page (Substitute), Youth Services Department, effective Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Juliana Munoz, Librarian I, Youth Services Department, effective Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 7, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 25, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 17, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 25, 2026 with noted changes.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 20, 2026 were tabled.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 21, 2026 were tabled.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried to enter executive session to discuss personnel matter related to a specific employee.

The Board moved into executive session at 8:54 p.m.

Clerk to the Board was removed from this session, minutes not recorded for motion to come out of executive session and action motion on adjournment.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026.**

Respectfully submitted.

Minutes taken by Leah Levine: Minutes reviewed and prepared by Oluwaseyi Banjo, Secretary of the Board

Darnett Davis
Board President